

ABSTRACT

A system determines the physical configuration of a convertible checkout station and configures the software to operate the station in correspondence with the determined configuration. The system comprises a physical configuration actuator that responds to a checkout station physical configuration and a physical configuration signal generator responsive to the actuator to generate a signal identifying the physical configuration of the checkout station. The physical configuration actuator may be tab, mounted member, or the like. The signal generator may be a plunger switch that is mounted to a checkstand, sliding drawer, or scanner of the station. The actuator engages the switch to generate a first signal when the station is physically configured for one operational mode of the station and releases the switch to generate a second signal when the physical configuration of the station is changed for operation in a second operational mode. Reed and other proximity switches may be used to generate a signal that has one state to indicate a first operational mode for the station and a second state to indicate the second operational mode. The signal may be provided to a processor that controls operation of the station and the processor uses the signal to configure software for the station. Thus, the signal reduces the likelihood of an erroneous software configuration following station conversion caused by operator neglect to identify the new configuration and the signal from the indicator may be used to confirm the software configuration of the terminal following power application.